

Application No. 10/577,787
Paper Dated: April 1, 2008
Attorney Docket No. 0388-061269

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/577,787 Confirmation No. 6090
Applicant : ATSUSHI SAKAI
Filed : April 28, 2006
Title : PIPELINE CLOSING APPARATUS
Group Art Unit : 3671
Examiner : Not Yet Assigned
Customer No. : 28289

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, Applicant hereby submits this Information Disclosure Statement, which includes a completed Form PTO/SB/08a and one copy of each reference listed thereon.

This application is the United States national phase of PCT Application No. PCT/JP2004/015823, filed October 26, 2004, which claims priority to Japanese Patent Application No. JP2004-116811, filed April 12, 2004 and Japanese Patent Application No. JP2003-372409, filed October, 31, 2003.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically submitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on April 1, 2008.

04/01/2008

Date

Bruce L. White

Signature

Bruce L. White

Typed Name of Person Signing Certificate

Some of the references identified in Form PTO/SB/08a were cited in an International Search Report (ISR), dated February 1, 2005 and an International Preliminary Report on Patentability (IPRP), dated August 3, 2006, in the underlying PCT application. Copies of the ISR and IPRP are submitted herewith. The reference cited in the ISR and IPRP are relevant for the reasons provided therein.

Japanese Patent Publication JP 7-81669 is also cited on page 2, line 22 of the Specification of the present application and is relevant for the reasons provided therein.

Japanese Utility Model Publication No. 4-3196 was cited on page 2, line 21 of the Specification of the present application and is relevant for the reasons provided therein.

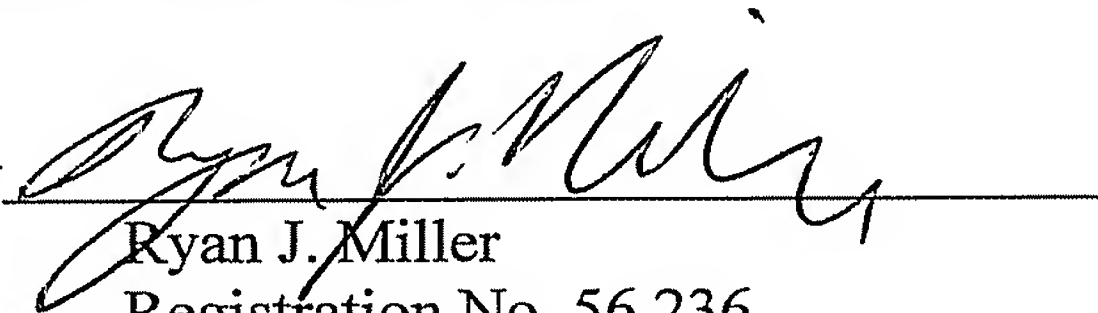
Machine translations of Japanese Patent Publication Nos. JP 2657925, JP 10-255369 and JP 07-81669 are also submitted herewith.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3), no fee is due for the submission of this Information Disclosure Statement, which is being filed before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits. However, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 23-0650.

Respectfully submitted,

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